[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 05: Letters 41-50

[Letter 41]

[front of letter 41]
Mrs. L.P. Kellogg
March 1870
Wishes to sell a picture from Dusseldorf

W.W. Corcoran:
Sirs:

I have a fine picture purchased from the Dusseldorf Collection nine or ten years ago, which I wish to sell. While I was in your gallery today, it occurred to me that you might like to add it to your fine collection. The subject is “The Countess of Rudolstadt, and the Duke of Alba and you may remember the very spiritual and admirable figure of the Netherland Countess as she- at the prayer of her crouching [?limantry] demands of the “splendid but perverted” Duke immediate restoration of all cattle driven away by his lordship’s soldiers. I cannot give you the dimensions of the [canvass?] but the picture frame covers the width of a large mantel piece, and contains at least a dozen figures, and I believe more. The Duke’s attitude is careless, his expression, admiring and the whole thing has always been exceedingly admired. My husband paid a little less than $800 gold for it. It hangs in the parlour of a house No 21 [Pierrepont?] St. Brooklyn. My husband’s address is No 1. Wall St. N.Y. Where he would be happy to hear from you. I shall be [?tile] Monday night at the [Streetser?] House on 4 ½ St. between Penn. Ave. and C St. Where I should be happy to give you any information in my power.

Yours respectfully
Mrs L.P Kellogg

N.Y. address
L.P. Kellogg
Kellogg & Parker
1 Wall St.

[Letter 42]

[Front of letter 42]
J. Thyson i.e. Juan Tressau
Mexico apr. 28' 70 [April 28, 1870]
Wants to sell a collection of paintings

A. Hyde Esquire
Secretary of the Institution of Fine Arts
Washington U.S.A.

Mexico April 28th 1870
A. Hyde Esquire
City of Washington

Sir

Last year I received from W Corcoran the hint to direct myself to you, with regard to the sale of my pictures, for which reason I herewith take the liberty to accompany the present with a catalog, informing you that those marked with red ink are: originals and that those marked with several crosses are of the most distinguished authors, while giving at the same time the [Epoc?] when they were finished.

The pictures mostly derive of former collections of rich clergymen or private people, and at the same time count among them many a one ordered by the late Emperor Maximilian, but which arrived too late to be seen by him.

Mexico is not the place to sell pictures of merit even if the academy of the capital would wish to acquire my collection, on the ground of finding itself , like everybody else in a state of failure.

I am sorry to learn that pictures pay in the U.S. their duties of importation on value, nevertheless I think that the value of pictures might be considered as that of any other merchandize; besides being for a museum, be got through free of duties.

My pictures are good and one third of them classic from specimens and splendid, but I desire to leave this country the reason why I wish to sell them, and in case the trustees of your museum think to buy the same

[Catalogue of paintings enclosed with letter]

[Letter 43]

To the Trustees of the Art Gallery founded by W.W. Corcoran Esq.

The undersigned having heard that the Art Gallery of which you are the Trustees, will be opened to the public in the course of a few months, very respectfully petitions that the opening exercises may consist in part of a grand concert to be given by the best musical associations of Washington; and that admission fees be charged for attending the [experiences?], to be appropriated towards the building of the Episcopal Memorial Church on Capitol Hill, that Church assuming all the labor and expense involved in this feature of the ceremonies.
Your petitioner represents, that a concert of the highest order will be fit accompaniment, of the opening of the Gallery "dedicated to art'; that by the means proposed you will promote the most commendable of all interests- those of a Christian Church in great need of present assistance, but having the prospect of unusual success and usefulness; that no objection can arise against the proposed plan on the ground that other other churches may ask similar favors in the future for the reason that there can be but one "opening" and that, after the Gallery is once occupied and shall constantly be receiving works of art, none will think it reasonable to ask such a favor; and finally that the use to which the proceed will be devoted may, or may not, be publicly announced according to your judgement.

Respectfully subscribed
Mary D. Beale

[Back of letter 43]
Mary D. Beale
May 1870
Wants a concert to be given on the "Opening of the art gallery"

[Letter 44]
[two letters are included]

[Front of first letter 44]
Jacob Gminder
Aug 4th 1870
As to the price of letters for the front of the Gallery

[Letterhead of Jacob Gminder Military Goods, Regalia and Theatrical Trimmings]
Baltimore August 4 1870

A Hyde Esquire
Washington, D.C.

Sir!

Your favor of the 3 [illegible] [illegible] is at hand and contents noted. In reply would say that it would be absolutely necessary for me to know, where those letters have to go. So as to make necessary calculation for the [fastening?] of them. Are they going on a [firm?] or are they to stand free. By letting me know how you want them I will give you necessary justification about the price by return of mail after receipt of yours.

Yours most respectfully
Jacob Gminder

[Front of second Letter 44]
Jacob Gminder
August 7, 1870
Giving price of [gilt?] letters for front of Art Gallery

[Letterhead of Jacob Gminder Military Goods, Regalia and Theatrical Trimmings]
Baltimore August 7 1870

Mr. A. Hyde
Washington, D.C.

Sir!

Your esteemed favor of the 5 [illegible] [illegible] is at the hand and contents noted. The reply would say that I will make you those letters in first class quality fire gilt and finished with burnisher edge to face ready to put up as described at [illegible] a [piece?] [and?] could have them done about 2 weeks from date. [They] could be got up in a cheaper way if desired but would not give the satisfaction. I hope that you may give me your patronage and I guarantee to furnish a job satisfactorily for all [time?].

Yours most respectfully:
Jacob Gminder

[letter 45]

[Front of letter 45]
M.S Pendleton
Aug 17th 1870

Wants to sell “The Hunter and his Dog” by Rotta

[Letterhead of Photographic and Fine Art Gallery, No. 297 Fulton Street, Corner of Johnson]

Brooklyn Aug 17th 1870
Mr Corcoran. Banker
Washington D.C

Dear Sir,

I understand that you are getting up a collection of valuable paintings by the different celebrated Artists. I have a fine painting by Autonis Rotta of Venezia. 1860. The Hunter and His Dog (6.5 feet) which is without exception the finest picture of the kind in the country.

This pronounced by the press and the Best Artists of New York and Brookyn to be the finest executed picture of the kind they have ever seen.

The price of the picture is twenty five hundred dollars ($2500) for further particulars [illegible] please address or call at Pendletons Photographic and Fine Art Gallery

297 Fullon St Brooklyn
Yours Respectfully
M.S. Pendleton

[letter 46]

[front of letter 46]
Davies Wilson
Nov. 16th 1870
[Dummy?]
Letter put in the Journal Blotter
A.H. Secretary
[no copy of letter follows]

[letter 47]

Clinton Rice
Nov. 17 1870

To the Trustees of The Corcoran Art Gallery Washington . D.C.

Sirs:-

I am duly authorized to make enquiry if the celebrated original [Reubraudt?] Peale Portrait of the late chief justice Marshall. Taken from life belonging to the collection of Chief Justice Chase and also a best of Mr. Chase executed by Powers. Belonging to a member of his family may be placed in the "Corcoran Gallery." to there remain. Subject of course to the order of the Chief Justice or of his family.

If your answer favors the placing of these works of high art in the gallery they will be removed there and placed. At such time and in such position as you may be pleased to indicate

I am Gentlemen
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Clinton Rice
P.O. Box 117

[Letter 48]

Jos B. Munchiweiler
Nov. 24th 1870
Wants to "enter the academy"

Phil Nov 24 1870
President of the Academy of Fine Arts Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I intend to remove shortly in your city. Being in the above city also almost a stranger. Therefore Sir would you have the kindness to [inform?] me [by?] when I [arrive?] [I?] could become a member of your academy. I believe Sir (will conceit no doubt) that I can sufficiently well paint and draw to enter one of your classes. I have made drawings of a great number of antique statues and I therefore Sir with impatience await your answer which you will have the kindness my Dear Sir to honor me with. With great expectations I remain yours Sir Restpectfully

Jos B. Munchiweiler
No 413 Lombard St
Phil Penn

[letter 49]
Hazard Ford & Co
Nov 26th 1870

Picture for sale
[Letterhead of Hazard, Ford and Company, Real Estate Brokers]

Newport, Nov 26th 1870

Gentlemen

We beg to inform you that there is in this city in the possession of one of the sons of the late well known Dr. John W. Francis of New York an original Holbein which we are commissioned to sell. The canvas measures 20x14, and the subject is Knight of the Golden Fleece of high degree, wearing the chain and order of the Golden Fleece around his neck. On the back of the canvas is painted the following "Portrait of [Francis de Meudon Conte D'Espinoise?] deceased in 1547, by Holbein" The face is a most striking one; the left hand is raised having a ring on the forefinger and the right hand is in repose resting against the [cinture?].

The same gentle man has an original portrait of Robert Fulton 40x29, representing the great inventor as he appears in the engraving of this portrait found in vol 2 of Appleton's Dictionary of Mechanic's, edition of 1868 and perhaps in other editions also. Torpedo boat in the distance.

Photographs of these valuable paintings would be sent to you if desired, or they will be shown to any person whom you appoint to experience them. No doubt is entertained by the owner of their [originality?], and we may mention that the Historical Society of New York, of which Dr. Francis was a member, eagerly desires to obtain the portrait of Fulton.

Should your desire to investigate this matter, we will thank you for an early reply

Your [respectfully?]
Hazard Ford & Co

[Letter 50]

D.H. Wood
Nov 29th 1870

[Letterhead of the Office of L.P. Bayne and Company, No.37 Broad Street, P.O. Box 580, New York Nov 29 1870]

Mr. W.W. Corcoran
Wash. City

Sir:-

It has been suggested to me that you might desire to possess the only portrait of life-size of General R.E. Lee. It was painted by Mr. Bruce of Winchester, Virginia, an amateur Artist, and the likeness is grandly superb. It was sold to Mr. [Helmbold?] of this city for $1000. [illegible], without being seen, and when delivered, was declined because of its large size made it unsuitable for his parlor.

The enclosed printed slip will acquaint you with the particulars of this picture.

As for myself, I refer you to Professor Henry, an old friend of many years standing.

Be pleased to reply and direct to the care of this house.

Respectfully yours,
D.H. Wood

[Printed slip enclosed advertising the portrait]